2018 OLA Intermediate “Not Quite Sequoyah”

Benjamin, Ali. *The Thing About Jellyfish*. New York: Little, Brown, 2015. 352p. (Grades 6-8). When Suzy’s best friend Franny drowns, Suzy becomes convinced that Franny was killed by a rare jellyfish. Instead of communicating her grief to the people around her, Suzy obsesses over proving to everyone how Franny must have died.

Benway, Robin. *Emmy & Oliver*. New York: HarperTeen, 2015. 352p. (Ages 12-18). Emmy’s childhood friend, Oliver, reappears ten years after he was kidnapped by his father. Now in high school, and tired of her overprotective parents, Emmy wants to live her life her way – staying out too late, surfing at her favorite spots – just being a regular teenager. Oliver also needs to figure out what is true in his life now. His father is not the man Oliver always thought he was, things in his old hometown have changed in the years he’s been away, and his memories of Emmy are vague and confusing.

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. *The Book Scavenger*. New York: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2015. 272p. (Ages 9 to 14). Emily and her family move, a lot. Emily reads… a lot. This time her family is moving to San Francisco. San Francisco happens to be the home of Emily’s literary idol, Garrison Griswold. Mr. Griswold is the creator of the online game “Book Scavenger”. The game involves books hidden all over the country with clues left for how to find those books. Emily finds out the Griswold has been attacked and she thinks it has something to do with the game. Emily and her new found friend James find a book they are sure has something to do with the mystery. They are also sure this book will lead them to a valuable prize. The only problem is they aren’t the only ones looking for the book or the prize.

Bond, Gwenda. *Fallout*. North Mankato, Minnesota: Switch Press, 2015. 304p. (Grades 7 and up). Teenage Lois Lane becomes the hero of her own adventure in this modern imagining of the *Superman* character. Lois, known for being a pushy troublemaker at every school she tries, finds her niche as an investigative journalist for her new high school’s online publication. Her nose for news leads her to investigate the truth behind a group of students called the Warheads, who are bullying other students both inside and outside a virtual reality world.

Brockenbrough, Martha. *The Game of Love and Death*. New York: Arthur A. Levine, 2015. 352p. (Ages 12 and up). Love and Death have been playing games with people’s lives for years and years. Death always wins. Henry and Flora have no idea they are part of this game. Flora is an African American girl who dreams with her whole heart of being the next Amelia Earhart. For the time being she is a jazz singer in the smoky clubs of Seattle. Henry, a white boy, from a few blocks away, was
adopted by a wealthy white family during the Great Depression. The game has begun…but humans have choices of their own to make and those choices WILL affect the game.

Growing up during the depression, Joe Rantz did not have much. After his mother died and his father remarried, his parents left him to fend for himself from the age of ten. With a good work ethic and a determination to succeed, he supported himself by washing dishes and felling trees to earn his meals. Joe finished high school and earned a scholarship to the University of Washington by joining the rowing team. Joe and his teammates surprised everyone by becoming the 1936 Olympic rowing team for the U.S.A. and going on to win gold. *Boys in the Boat* is a story of overcoming obstacles and fulfilling dreams. This biography includes real photos and offers readers a look at Depression-era life. It is a young readers’ adaptation of a New York Times Best Seller.

Rules and limitations are for proper girls, and 13-year-old Lizzie Kennedy is NOT a proper girl by early 1900s San Francisco standards. Her love for science and medicine leads her down a path to find her missing father in the middle of a quarantine in Chinatown with the help of an uninvited house guest.

Eva is a young lady who makes beautiful jewelry that she sells in Boulder, Colorado, the town a few miles away from the compound Righteous Path in which she lives with her mothers and sisters. Eva has seen the heathens from outside, and they are nothing like she has been led to believe. She starts to like them and questions her beliefs. What will become of Eva?

Just days before his first game of the season, sixteen-year-old Braden, star pitcher of the baseball team, helplessly watches as his father, the only parent he has ever known, is arrested at gunpoint for the murder of a police officer. Compelled to always please his father, Braden struggles to find the truth. Did his father kill the police officer? Why did his brother, Trey suddenly move away ten years ago? Braden, with the help of his estranged older brother Trey, starts piecing together what happened the night of the officer’s death and learns why Trey suddenly moved away ten years ago.

Tia is a young lady who has a beautiful voice and wants to change the world with it. When the death of a little child in her neighborhood brings out the truth about why her father is in jail, can Tia come to terms with the cards that she has been dealt and allow the healing to begin?
Teenager Aza Ray has suffered her entire life from a lung disease so rare that doctors have named it after her. Her constant affliction causes her family to dismiss her new claims of hearing her voice coming from the sky and seeing a ship floating in the clouds. After a strange encounter with a bird and a seeming tragedy, Aza Ray realizes she is not the person everyone believes her to be, and she has power far beyond even she imagined.

Ally has always been the class clown, and going to the principal’s office is better than sitting in class where others might realize she cannot read or write. When her new teacher discovers the reason for her behavior, he says he can help, but Ally does not know if she can trust him. *Fish in a Tree* is great for any kid who has trouble fitting in. It is a good novel for in-class discussion about differences and acceptance.

Mai reluctantly joins her dad and Bá (grandmother) on a trip to Vietnam for the summer to help her grandmother search for her grandfather who has been missing since the war.

After an accident leaves her alone and in danger, Samantha, a Chinese-American girl, teams up with a runaway slave named Annamae, and they disguise themselves as cowboys traveling the Oregon Trail from Missouri to California in 1845.

When Claire discovers her late father was a member of the Japanese crime family, the Yakuza, she suddenly finds her friends and family in danger in this exciting and thrilling mystery.

Jimmy McClean doesn’t look like the other Lakota kids at school. Being part white on his father's side, he has fair skin and blue eyes that don’t go unnoticed by two bullies in class. But Jimmy’s grandfather sees the Crazy Horse in Jimmy and takes him on a journey following the footsteps of one of the greatest leaders in Lakota history.

Willowdean, who is given the nickname of “Dumplin’” by her former beauty queen mother, has always been self-confident and at home in her own skin. That is until she starts working at a local fast-food place, where she discovers Bo, who is a former jock. Not only does Willowdean
find herself liking Bo, but is surprised to learn that Bo returns the feelings. Suddenly unsure of herself, and wanting to get her confidence back, Willowdean does something completely out of character—she enters the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet beauty pageant, and sets out to prove to herself and others that she deserves to be a part of the pageant as much as any other girl.

When Rashad is brutally beaten by a cop for allegedly stealing a bag of chips, the witnesses struggle with making difficult decisions about what they have seen, the intense racial tension, and the unfolding consequences of police brutality.

Silvera, Adam. *More Happy Than Not*. New York: Soho Teen, 2015. 304p. (Grades 8 and up). Dealing with his father’s recent suicide and his own attempt on his life, Aaron considers a memory-altering procedure at the Leteo Institute. His desperation to have the procedure heightens as he also finds himself falling romantically for a new friend.